

# KENTUCKY'S ENVIRONMENT

The Newsletter of the Environmental Quality Commission

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EQC

is a seven-member citizen board that advises officials on environmental matters, provides a public forum for the discussion of issues, and monitors environmental conditions. To receive the free EQC newsletter call 502-564-2150 ext. 160, e-mail EQC@mail.nr.state.ky.us, or write to EQC at 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601. EQC Internet Web page <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/eqc/eqc.html>. Printed bimonthly with state funds.



## EQC Report Reveals that Logging of Private Woodlands Near Record Levels

Kentucky's natural resources are of vital importance—supplying jobs, clean water and air, recreational opportunities, and adding to our quality of life. But these resources are at risk. A recent state study to assess environmental risks in Kentucky ranked the loss of biological diversity as a high ecological threat in the state.

The degradation and depletion of our natural resources not only affects the state's economic and ecological well-being it threatens the very fabric of what makes Kentucky unique and special. EQC recently released a report to determine the state our natural resources—specifically our forests, wildlife resources, and biological diversity.

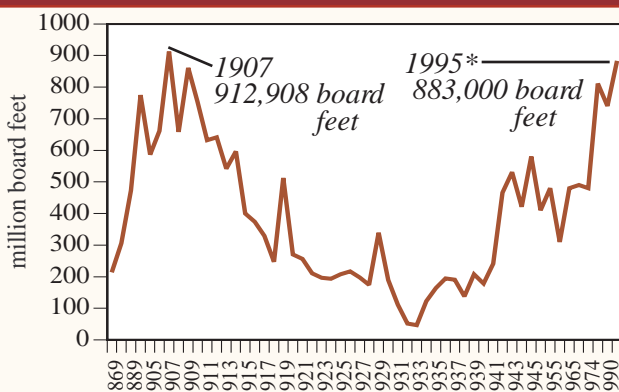
The EQC State of Kentucky's Environment report on Natural Resources reveals that forestlands cover nearly half of the state. But little is known about the current status of our forests. We don't know how much logging is taking place in the state, what types of trees are being harvested, or the extent these logged areas are being regenerated. Most data on Kentucky's forests were collected more than 10 years ago. "This lack of data is probably the most pressing issue facing our forests and one that is within our power to address given adequate resources and priority," according to Aloma Dew, EQC Chair.

EQC, however, was able to assemble some information to provide a better picture of the status of our forest resources. Among the report findings are:

■ Lumber production has reached near record levels in the state. More than 58% of the timber in Kentucky is considered large enough to be harvested. This finding reveals what most experts agree is the case—that Kentucky's forest are being cut at near record rates due to timber availability and demand. Consequently, lumber and wood industry sales in the state have tripled between 1982 and 1994.

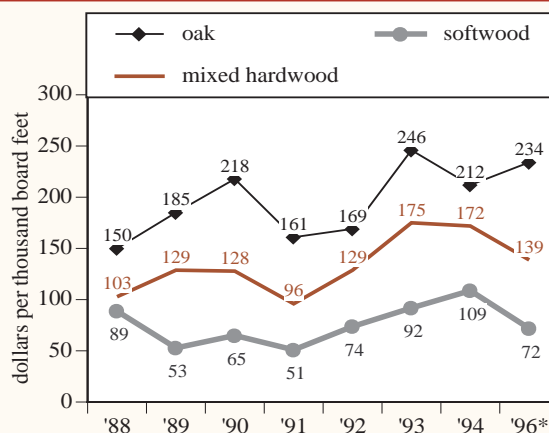
■ Demand continues to drive up stumpage prices for oak as well as other high quality sawlogs. However, stumpage prices for mixed hardwoods and pine are declining. This may indicate a greater volume of lower quality timber is being harvested and used by the forest industry. With many new wood industries using small and low quality timber for paper and composite wood products, the overall average price for timber is less. Because 65% of Kentucky's timber is considered low quality, the current markets offer land-owners additional opportunities to sell timber which will likely result in a continued increase in logging in the state. *Continued back page-see Forestry*

## Lumber Production Trends in Kentucky



\*Preliminary. Source: U.S. Forest Service; KY Div. of Forestry

## Timber Stumpage Prices - Private Woodlands in Kentucky



Note: 1995 data not available. Chart adjusted for inflation using the consumer price index for 1995. \*1996 prices based on average stumpage prices in Tennessee. Kentucky data not available for 1996. Source: Timber Mart-South, Stumpage Price Mart; University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry

## MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

\*Sept. 16-17- KY Nonpoint Source Conference; Univ. of KY. Contact: Geaunita Caylor, 606-257-2820.

\*Sept. 17-20 - KY League of Cities 68th Annual Convention; Heritage Hall, Lexington. Contact: KLC, 606-323-3700,

\*Sept. 20-22 - 12th Annual American Lung Assn. Bike Tour to Shakertown. Contact: 1-800-586-4872.

\*Sept. 17-Nov. 19 - Ecoliteracy Program, a series of seminars on the natural environment; Spalding Univ., Louisville. Contact: Phyllis Hannon, 502-589-911, ext. 268.

\*Sept. 23 - Soil and Water Conservation Society Wastewater Workshop; KY State Univ. Contact: Linda Fryman, 606-224-7388.

\*Sept. 27-30 - 1997 Joint Meeting Am. Assn. of Petroleum Geologists and the Society for Organic Petrology; Hyatt Regency, Lexington. Contact: Kim King, 606-257-4634.

\*Oct 1-2 - 22nd Governor's Conference on the Environment; Hyatt Regency, Lexington. Contact: Boyce Wells, 502-564-7320.

\*Oct. 9-10- KY Mining Institute 58th Annual Meeting; Heritage Hall, Lexington. Contact: Geaunita Caylor, 606-257-2820.

## PUBLIC NOTICES/HEARINGS

### U.S. EPA Underground Injection Wells - Notices

\*Joseph Nally, Henderson Co. (KY97UIC019) - Permit for injection of brine from oil/gas production. Contact: William Mann, 404-562-9424, ext. 29452.

\*Rokel Oil Co., Lee Co. (KY97UIC018) - Permit for injection of brine from oil/gas production. Contact: Brian Thames, 404-562-9424, ext. 29454.

\*Jordan Oil, Daviess Co. (KY97UICA004) \*Joe Lozano, Daviess Co. (KY97UICA005) \*RT Oil Inc, Ohio Co. (KY97UICA006) - Administrative orders for violations of Safe Drinking Water Act. Contact: George Ford, 404-562-9788.

## KY Division of Water - KPDES Water Permit Notices

\*City of Glasgow- modification of municipal pretreatment program (Public Notice PT 97-005).

\*35 Water Discharge Permit Issuances/Modifications - Public Notices 26-28. Contact: Judy Ziegler, 502-564-3410, ext. 465.

### KY Division of Waste Mgt. - Underground Storage Tanks

\*Neltner's Inc., 19th & Monmouth St., Newport (1379-019).

\*VMW, 1300 KY Ave., Paducah (3636-073).

\*ABM, Dry Creek Rd., Clearfield (Rowan Co.) (1005-103).

\*Federal Correctional Inst., Old Hwy. 716, Ashland (1175-010).

\*Northfield Oil, Abadallah Dr., Cynthiana (0693-049).

\*Chevron, 1-71 & KY 227, Carrollton (4980-021).

\*Ashland, KY Hwy 36 N, Frenchburg (1004-083).

\*Total Service Station, 411 N. 12th St., Murray (0376-018).

\*Scott-Gross Co., 664 Magnolia Ave., Lexington (9619-034).

\*Chevron, 2398 Nicholasville Rd., Lexington (4972-034).

The above are corrective action plans to remediate groundwater or soil contamination. Contact: Matt Varney, 502-564-6716, ext. 684.

### KY Div. of Waste Mgt. - Hazardous Waste Notices

\*Vanderbilt Chemical Corp., Murray (Calloway Co.) - closure plan for hazardous waste tanks (KYD-053-350-229).

\*Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Paducah (McCracken Co.) - proposed remedial action plan for 37 areas of concern (DOE/OR/06-1566&D3).

Contact: Mike Welch, 502-564-6716, ext. 246.

### KY Division for Air Quality - Notices

\*A-CMI KY Castings, Hawesville (Hancock Co.)- major modification to gray iron caster addition (log# E486).

\*United L N Glass, Versailles (Woodford Co.)- major modification to auto glass plant (log# E611).

*continued back page - see Public Notices*



## Environmental Quality Commission Meeting Announcement



### September 18, 1997 - EQC Business Meeting KY State University, Frankfort, 11am - 3 pm

- \*Review proposed regulations
- \*Tour of KSU Farm, aquaculture operations

### Upcoming EQC Meetings

#### ■ October 16-17 - EQC Clean Water Campaign

##### Public Forum: Floyd's Fork Watershed

A review of water quality issues and needs of the Floyd's Fork watershed.

#### ■ November 13-14 - EQC Annual Working Retreat

All EQC meetings are open to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. For more information about the above meetings contact EQC at 502-564-2150.

### Public Notices Continued - from front page

#### KY Division for Air Quality - Notices-Continued

\***Sargent & Greenleaf, Nicholasville (Jessamine Co.)** - manor modification to lock manufacturing plant (log# E777).

\***Texas Eastern Transmission Corp., Owingsville, Danville** - Title V permit for compressor station (log #778 & #784).

\***Cincinnati Gas & Electric, (Boone Co.)** - Title V permit for power plant (log# E954).

\***KY Utilities, Lexington (Fayette Co.)** - Title V permit for power plant (log #E995)

\***Martiki Coal Wolf Creek, McClure (Martin Co.)**- Title V permit for coal processing plant (log # F062).

\***Pontiki Coal Corp., Moree (Martin Co.)**- Title V permit for coal processing plant (log #F066).

\***Polymer Color, North. Am., Henderson (Henderson Co.)**- Major modification to plastic manufacturing plant (log #F145).

### PROPOSED STATE REGULATIONS

\***Air Quality** - Amendments to 401 KAR 50:012 to clarify that RACT is required for all major sources in moderate nonattainment areas; 401 KAR 51:010 will make ozone nonattainment areas compatible with U.S. EPA revised classifications; 401 KAR 50:066 incorporates federal regulations for conformity; and 401 KAR 59:174 State II Controls at gas stations, 401 KAR 63:005 open burning, and 401 KAR 65:010 vehicle emission control programs will become part of the KY SIP to reduce VOC emissions by 15% in ozone nonattainment areas. Contact: Ken Hines, 502-573-3382

\***Surface Mining** - Amending 7 regulations to incorporate subsidence and water replacement requirements (405 KAR 8:001, 8:030, 8:040, 16:060, 18:001, 18:060, 18:210). Contact: Jim Villines, 502-564-2377.

### FEDERAL NOTICES

\***Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area General Management Plan** - scoping and public comment phase for plan for resource management, visitor use, and development strategies. Contact: Rolland Swain at 423-569-9778 or email at biso\_superintendent@nps.gov.

■ The secondary forest industry grew by 11% in the past few years—from 449 companies in 1994 to 500 in 1996. Promoting secondary wood industries in Kentucky has become a high state priority given its potential to diversify our economy, especially in Eastern Kentucky. But too much lumber and raw wood materials are still leaving Kentucky for processing elsewhere. EQC found that while Kentucky is the 4th leading hardwood producing state in the nation, it accounts for only 1% of the country's secondary wood industry employment.

■ Kentucky's forestlands are largely privately owned with about 92% in private hands. But with an estimated 307,000 forest landowners in the state, help to manage these forestlands has been limited. Currently, the state employs 45 field foresters—that amounts to about 6,820 landowners for every state forester.

■ The number of forest plans prepared by state foresters during 1996 reached record levels. Since 1981, more than 17,000 plans covering 1.48 million acres have been prepared by state foresters. But this still only represents 13% of 11.4 million acres of private forestland in the state. At this rate it will take another 100 years to service all private forestland in Kentucky.

■ Impacts from logging operations can also degrade the health of a forest ecosystem and its future use. A recent random survey by the University of Kentucky of 100 logging operations found that 52% were not adequately controlling runoff pollution.

■ Damage caused by timber harvesting can be easily prevented with better logger training and education. A master logger program designed to voluntarily train loggers about proper harvesting practices was established in 1992. Since then 917 loggers have graduated from the program. However, this only represents about 30% of the loggers operating in the state.

Logger training is among the many issues to be addressed in the upcoming 1998 legislative session under the proposed Forest Stewardship Act. Landowner education and a state-financed forestry cost share fund to supplement dwindling federal resources are also components of the proposed forest stewardship act. EQC strongly endorses these provisions as well as a comprehensive inventory of our forests with timely updates on harvesting trends in order to make informed decisions about the capacity of our forest systems to support existing and future demands.

The report also includes information on the status of the state's wildlife resources and the health of our natural ecosystems. Among the findings are:

■ 17% of the state's native species are now considered rare.

■ Freshwater mussels are the most at risk species in Kentucky with 40% of the state's 103 native species considered rare.

■ About 2.2 million acres or 9% of Kentucky's land is managed to some degree as a natural area.

The Natural Resources report and the other 5 reports in the EQC State of Kentucky's Environment series are available by contacting EQC at 502-564-2150.

### FEDERAL NOTICES- Continued

\***Daniel Boone National Forest** - Amend forest plan to include two age shelterwood policy, cliffline management policy and strategy for managing Indiana bat habitat. Contact: USFS 606-745-3100.

\***Clinton County Empowerment Zone** - Notice of Intent to release \$7.1 million to Cagle Water Expansion Project. Objections should be sent by 9/10/97 to the KY Dept. for Local Government, Div. of Community Programs, 1024 Capital Center Dr. Suite 340, Frankfort., KY 40601, phone: 502-564-2382.

**Governor Environmental Excellence Awards**  
Each year awards are presented to Kentuckians working to protect the state's environment. Nominations are being accepted in the areas of forestry, mine reclamation, pollution prevention, environmental education, energy conservation, soil conservation, community and industrial environmental leadership, and land conservation. Nominations are due Aug. 29. Contact: Veda Aldridge at 502-564-7320

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